

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MADRID 02944 170953Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAJ-01 /071 W

----- 121202

R 141713Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5351

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USNATO

USEC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS MADRID 2944

EO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: THE RULES OF THE SPANISH DEMOCRATIC GAME

1. A GUEST COMMENTARY IN "ABC" (MONARCHIST) TOUCHED
IN ITS AUTHOR'S WAY ON THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF PRESENT
SPANISH POLITICAL LIFE: HOW IS THE GAME OF REFORM TO BE PLAYED?

2. EVERYONE SEEMED AGREED, ON THE DEATH OF FRANCO,
THAT THIS HISTORIC CHANGE NEEDS BE UNDERLINED AS WELL
BY A POLITICAL CHANGE. THE DIVISIONS BEGAN OVER THE
QUESTION OF HOW THIS DEMOCRATIC REFORM WAS TO BE ACHIEVED:
WHO ESTABLISHES THE RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC GAME? THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 02944 170953Z

GOVT SAYS THERE IS NO OTHER METHOD THAN REFORM

FROM WITHIN--THAT IS, REFORM VIA INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NOT IN FACT DEMOCRATIC IN THEMSELVES. THE OPPOSITION CLAIMS THE ONLY WAY IS BY A CONSTITUENT PROCESS BASED ON EVIDENTLY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

3. MANY NOW COMPLAIN THAT THE GOVT HAS ALREADY LOST IRREPLACEABLE TIME AND ALLOWED THE PROPONENTS OF "IMMOBILISM" TACTICAL ADVANTAGES WHICH THEY DID NOT HAVE FIVE MONTHS AGO. OTHERS WONDER WHY THE GOVT HAS NOT YET ACTED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN ITS "REFORMISM" WHICH CLAIMS TO REPRESENT POPULAR DESIRES AND THE OPPOSITON WHICH APPEARS TO POTENTIALLY REPRESENT WIDE IDEOLOGICAL CURRENTS IN THE COUNTRY. THAT DEMOCRACY COULD RESULT FROM THE WORK OF THE MIXED COMMISSION (REPRESENTATIVE AS IT IS OF THE OLD REGIME) WOULD BE A MIRACLE.

4. BUT IMAGINING THAT RULES ACCEPTABLE TO THE VAST MAJORITY OF SPANIARDS ARE ACHIEVED, THEN THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE OBTAINED TO DEMOSTRATE THAT SPAIN IS A DEMOCRACY: FIRST, THE FREE FUNCTIONING OF POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH CAN CHANNEL THE DIVERSE IDEOLOGICAL CURRENTS OF THE COUNTRY; SECONDLY, FULL PUBLIC LIBERTIES, EXPLICITLY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OF ASSEMBLY AND OF LABOR UNIONS; THIRDLY, A PARLIAENTARY SYSTEM ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE WHICH WOULD NOT CONTAIN A POWERFUL NON-DEMOCRATIC UPPER HOUSE; AND FOURTHLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVT BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE, REQUIRING A CHANGE IN THE METHOD OF SELECTING THE PRIME MINISTER.

5. ONCE THE RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC GAME ARE ESTABLISHED IT WILL BE THE REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES AND THE DYNAMIC IMPLULSE OF SOCIETY WHICH WILL ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY REMODELING AND PERFECTING. THUS, IT WOULD NOT BE SO DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE AT THE DESIRED GOAL OF CONVERTING SPAIN INTO A NORMAL EUROPEAN COUNTRY IN WHICH POLITICAL LIBERTIES ARE A FACT OF LIFE.
STABLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, DEMOCRACY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID02944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760146-0789
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760463/aaaacbis.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE RULES OF THE SPANISH DEMOCRATIC GAME
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006